

Brookline Preservation Commission Demolition Application Report

Address: 675 Chestnut Hill Avenue

Petitioner: Colin Porter

Building types: house

National Register Listing (if Applicable): n/a



Historical/Architectural Significance:

Architect David Fried designed this house for the Newhouse Corporation of America, a real estate firm with offices in Wellesley. Fried had his office at 1 State Street in Boston, where he practiced with architect Archie Riskin, until Riskin's death in 1943. Born in 1911, Fried studied at the College of Architecture at Cornell, receiving the Charles Goodwin Sands medal in 1932. Primarily a designer of suburban houses around New England, Fried also designed ski-area lodges and hotels in Jackson, New Hampshire and Stowe, Vermont.



675 Chestnut Hill Ave

The house is an unusual example of post World War II Moderne design set in a neighborhood of predominantly traditionally-styled houses. Its massing, dimensions and setbacks, however, fit the patterns of the streetscape along this part of Chestnut Hill Avenue.

The form of the house is similar to the early 20th century American four-square style architecture, considered a precursor of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style. Character-defining features of the house at 675 Chestnut Hill Avenue include the very wide roof overhang, a centered entry vestibule, large chimney, picture windows that wrap around the front corners and decorative brickwork.

Fried seems to have used the design principles of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie House ideal in his design of the house: strong horizontal lines and planes, deeply overhanging eaves, a central hearth, prominent foundation, and a sheltering, cantilevered roof.

David Fried died in 1990.



The house at 60 Princeton Road meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- c. The building is associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth; and
- d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.



The house retains its integrity in terms of its location setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. It is an unusual example of post-war Moderne design in this neighborhood at the foot of Fisher Hill.